

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

AGR-20 NIC-01 DRC-01 /211 W
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R 161700Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6032

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGZN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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TAGS: ELAB, EEC, XG

SUBJECT: WCL GENERAL SECRETARY DISCUSSES EUROPEAN LABOR UNITY

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6072

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ON NOVEMBER 15 JEAN BRUCK, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), TOLD EC LABOR ATTACHES THAT THE AFFILIATION OF WCL EUROPEAN UNIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) IS IMMINENT. HE ALSO COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE RECENT WFTU CONGRESS AT VARNA, BULGARIA, AND SAID THE UNIFICATION OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY INCLUDE EAST EUROPEAN LABOR CENTRALS IS NO LONGER AN UNATTAINABLE GOAL. END SUMMARY.

2. WCL LEADER JOHN BRUCK IS CONFIDENT THAT THE AFFILIATION OF AT LEAST SEVEN EO/WCL UNIONS WITH THE ETUC WILL OCCUR WITHIN THE NEXT 30 DAYS. HE SAID THE QUESTION OF CGIL AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC (SEE REFTEL) HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY SET ASIDE BUT THAT THERE ARE NO REMAINING OBSTACLES OF ANY CONSEQUENCE TO EO/WCL AFFILIATION. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT CGIL'S BID FOR AFFILIATION WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE A PRIORITY AGENDA ITEM FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF THE EXPANDED ETUC. REGARDING THE WCL'S FUTURE, BRUCK SAID THAT THE EUROPEAN WCL UNIONS, INCLUDING THE CFDT OF FRANCE, HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO CONTINUED AFFILIATION WITH THE WCL ONCE AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC IS ACHIEVED AND THAT THIS CONDITION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE ETUC.

3. BRUCK EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH REPORTS BY WCL OBEERVERS WHO ATTENDED THE RECENT WFTU CONGRESS AT VARNA, BULGARIA. DESPITE CRITICISMS LEVELED AGAINST THE WCL AT VARNA, BRUCK VIEWED THE WFTU CONGRESS IN POSITIVE TERMS. HE SAID THE CONGRESS WAS MARKED BY ITS "OPENESS" AND HE PRAISED THE MODERATION OF THE RUSSIANS WHICH WAS MANIFESTED BY THEIR HANDLING OF THE CGIL'S REQUEST FOR ASSOCIATE STATUS WITH THE WFTU. BRUCK SAID THAT THE CGIL REQUEST WAS UNDOUBTEDLY CALCULATED TO FACILITATE CGIL AFFILIATION WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ETUC BUT THAT REGARDLESS OF THE STATUS OF CGIL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WFTU, CGIL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC, AS WELL AS THAT OF THE CGT OF FRANCE, WAS ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME. BRUCK ALSO STATED THAT UNITY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS, ALTHOUGH A LONG RANGE PROPOSITION, WILL ALSO COME ABOUT IN TIME. HE SAID THE WCL ENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTS THE PROJECTED EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING AT GENEVA IN

JANUARY.

4. COMMENT. BRUCK'S COMMENTS ON THE EAST-WEST MEETING AT GENEVA IN JANUARY AND HIS FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT OF THE WFTU CONGRESS AT VARNA ARE NOT SURPRISING. SINCE NOVEMBER 1970 THE WCL SECRETARIAT HAS ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO EXPAND RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD BODY UNDER A MANDATE OF THE WCL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO DEVELOP BETTER RAPPORT WITH BOTH THE WFTU AND THE ICFTU. EARLIER THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE WCL APPEARED TO BE SOFT-PEDDLING WCL RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET IN ORDER TO ENHANCE ITS BID FOR AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC. NOW WCL LEADERS, WHO APPARENTLY VIEW EO/WCL AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC AS A CERTAINTY, ARE BEATING THE EAST-WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION UNITY DRUMS WITH RENEWED FERVOR. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT THIS WILL HAVE ANY BEARING ON THE ETUC'S DECISION ON EO/WCL AFFILIATION WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN ON NOVEMBER 24. NEVERTHELESS THERE ARE SOME LEADERS IN THE ETUC, AS WELL AS IN THE ICFTU, WHO LOOK UPON EO/WCL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC AS BEING TANTAMOUNT TO OPENING ITS DOOR TO A MINIATURE TROJAN HORSE. THEY FEAR THAT THIS COULD LEND IMPETUS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOSER TIES WITH SOVIET BLOC LABOR CENTRALS SOMETHING WHICH AN INCREASING NUMBER OF WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LEADERS IS ADVOCATING. GREENWALD

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